

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel without prejudice claims 12-16.

Kindly replace claims 3, 17-18 and 20 by the following claims.

B1
3. (twice amended) A process according to claim 1 in which the polymer in step (c) is subjected to ultraviolet light radiation at an intensity of up to 500 milliWatts/cm².

17. (amended) A process of preparing water soluble or water swellable polymer comprising the steps,

(a) forming an aqueous mixture comprising,

(i) a water soluble ethylenically unsaturated monomer or blend of monomers and,

(ii) an ultra violet initiator,

B2
(b) effecting polymerisation by subjecting the aqueous mixture formed in step (a) to polymerisation conditions to form a polymer of said monomer or monomer blend,

(c) subjecting the polymer formed in step (b) to ultra violet light radiation at an intensity of up to 500 milli Watts/cm²,

characterised in that the polymerisation step (b) is conducted substantially in the absence of ultra violet radiation.

18. (amended) A process according to claim 17 in which the ultra violet light radiation is at an intensity of up to 50 milli Watts/cm².

B3
20. (amended) A water soluble or water swellable polymer obtained by a method according to claim 4 in which the amount of residual monomer is below 100 ppm.

Cl 4 recites acrylamide

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 were pending in this application.

Claims 12-16 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 3, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-11 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated U.S. Patent No. 6,262,141 ("Cywar et al.").

Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,185,385 ("Kanluen et al."), published European patent application 2,990,814 ("EP '814"), U.S. Patent No. 5,800,685 ("Perrault"), and U.S. Patent No. 5,756,574 ("Baumstark et al.").

Claims 1-11 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over EP '814 in view of Cywar.

Claims 12-16 have been cancelled.

Claims 3, 17-18 and 20 have been amended.

Claims 1-11 and 17-20 are presented for reconsideration.

REMARKS

The Examiner rejects claims 3, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the intended subject matter. The Examiner objects to the units of measure used for light intensity.

Responsive thereto claims 3, 17 and 18 have been amended by replacement to recite the units of measure used for light intensity in milli Watts/cm². This is supported by the disclosure on page 4, line 2 and second full paragraph and by the exemplification. Additionally claim 20 was amended to